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WILLIAM ALEXANDER MORGAN

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TO : Director, FBI (105-70973)

FROM : Legat, Havana (105-395)

SUBJECT: WILLIAM ALEXANDER MORGAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

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DATE: July 16, 1958
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ReBulet July 2, 1958, and Havana letter June 20, 1958. (u)

On July 8, 1958, Lieutenant Roberto Vila (conceal), investigating agent for the Cuban Army Military Intelligence Service, advised he had received information that the subject had worked as a bodyguard for the well-known gambling figure, MEYER LANSKY, prior to joining the insurrectionary forces of the Directorio Revolucionario. Vila had a photograph contained on a leaflet put out by the Directorio Revolucionario, the caption of which indicated that one of the men in the photograph was the "North American, William Morgan." Lieutenant Vila advised that he planned to contact LANSKY personally to verify this allegation and obtain all available background on the subject. (S)(u)

Lieutenant Vila stated he has sent to Santa Clara Province, Cuba, to obtain subject's photograph which was reported to have been found among the effects of RICHARD A. WITZLER, an American citizen who had joined the insurrectionary forces of the Directorio Revolucionario and who was subsequently arrested by Cuban authorities and returned to the United States. (S)(u)

The Havana office of the CIA submitted a reported dated July 9, 1958, classified secret on the following subject, "Rebel Activities in the Sierra Escambray Area," which contained the following information which is believed to refer to the subject:

Rebel activity has increased considerably in Las Villas Province since April 1958.¹ There are several rebel bands of from five to twenty men each. Another group of twenty or thirty rebels is led by an American who is believed to be a veteran of the Korean war and experienced in guerrilla warfare ...

On 30 June 1958 Richard Wetzler,² an American, was deported from Habana to Miami on flight 496 of the Compania Cubana de Aviacion (Cuban Aviation Company). Wetzler was imprisoned for twenty-one days in the jail at Santa Clara. Prior to that time he was in the

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Declassify on: OADR

4 - Bureau
1 - Havana
JJW:MEG
(5)

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7/16/58

Sierra Escambray fighting with the rebels. He confessed that there are more than 250 well-armed rebels fighting in the Sierra Escambray. The rebels operate in groups of ten men each, using guerrilla warfare tactics. They fight by day and rest by night, when they await reports from their confidential agents in the nearby towns...

CIA information is classifiable per their letter dated 6/24/85. 9145 E/RP #79,649 7-31-85

Field Comments:

1. A fairly reliable source reported on 25 June 1958 that a rebel force in the Sierra Escambray was successfully employing guerrilla tactics against a much larger contingent of the Cuban Armed Forces, and, at the same time, winning the sympathy of the natives in that area. (S) (u)

2. The source of Field Comment No. 1 above also reported the presence of an American war veteran among the rebels. One William Alexander Morgan was identified in the 8 April and 17 May 1958 issues of Diario de las Americas, Miami Spanish-language newspaper, as a rebel leader in the area. Morgan or Wetzler may possibly be identical with the American rebel leader of this and/or the above-mentioned report...

The above has not been disseminated in the Embassy inasmuch as information submitted by Lieutenant Vila has not yet been verified and information submitted by the CIA is known to be available to all interested agencies. (S) (u)

This office is continuing to follow this matter and the Bureau will be kept advised of pertinent information. (S) (u)

Two extra copies of this letter are submitted to the Bureau for forwarding to the Miami office. (u)

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